

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 02689 081905Z

51

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 EUR-12 /085 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8532

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2689

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HO, ES

SUBJECT: CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 159822

(B) IR 6 829 0062

(C) SAN SALVADOR 2641

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. THE SALVADORAN PRESS IS GIVING FRONT PAGE HEADLINE TREATMENT TO ITS COVERAGE OF THE MOLINA-MELGAR JULY 7 MEETING AT EL POY ON THE FRONTIER. PRESIDENT MOLINA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MINDEF ROMERO, ARMED FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF RODRIGUEZ AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS MILITARY

STAFF. THE MEETING WAS REPORTED TO HAVE LASTED TWO HOURS. AMONG THE POINTS DISCUSSED AND AGREEMENTS REACHED, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, WERE THE FOLLOWING:

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SAN SA 02689 081905Z

2. THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSES OF THE GET TOGETHER WERE FOR THE

CHIEFS OF STATE TO BECOME PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED; DISCUSS RECENT

BORDER INCIDENTS (ESPECIALLY THE GOH REFERRAL OF ITS SIDE TO THE OAS) AND MEANS TO AVOID FURTHER CLAIMS; EXCHANGE OPINIONS ON THE UPCOMING COSTA RICA MEETING WITH OTHER COS'S; AND TO PROBE THE POSSIBILITIES OF A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

3. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO TERMINATE MUTUAL DENUNCIATIONS OVER BORDER INCIDENTS, WHICH FOR THE MOST PART ARE "INSIGNIFICANT". MOLINA WAS REPORTED TO HAVE REMINDED THE GROUP OF HIS AGREEMENT WITH LOPEZ ARELLANO TO CONTAIN SUCH INCIDENTS THROUGH BILATERAL COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING. THE PRESIDENTS AGREED TO INSTRUCT THEIR RESPECTIVE BORDER MILITARY COMMANDERS TO PEACEFULLY RESOLVE ALL FRONTIER INCIDENTS.

4. BOTH PRESIDENTS FEELS THAT THE COS MEETING IN COSTA RICA IS NOT THE PLACE TO DISCUSS THE BILATERAL PROBLEM AND THAT THEY WILL MERELY REPORT THAT DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY. THEY AGREED THAT THE COSTA RICA AGENDA WOULD CONFINE ITSELF PRINCIPALLY TO REGIONAL ECONOMIC MATTERS.

5. BOTH CHIEFS OF STATE WERE SAID TO HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR "PROFOUND SATISFACTION" WITH HOW WELL THIS FIRST MEETING HAD GONE. MOLINA SAID HE FAVORED SUCH DIRECT DIALOGUE AND THAT THE SERIES OF MEETINGS AMONG THE TWO MILITARY LEADERSHIPS WOULD CONTINUE.

6. COMMENT - ALL REPORTS HAVE EMPHASIZED THE OPENNESS, FRIENDLINESS AND GENERAL COMRADESHIP THAT PREVAILED. THE PRESIDENTS WERE SAID TO ADDRESS EACH OTHER BY THEIR FIRST NAMES AT THE END. ALTHOUGH THIS MEETING WAS NOT UNEXPECTED (REF TEL C), THE AGREEMENT APPARENTLY REACHED (REF B) TO GIVE IT FULL AND IMMEDIATE PUBLICITY WAS OUT OF KEEPING WITH THE CAUTIOUSNESS

DISPLAYED BY MELGAR VIS A VIS SUCH A GET TOGETHER BEFORE IT TOOK PLACE. THE DATT WAS TOLD BY SALVADORAN PARTICIPANTS THAT THEY HAD A HARD TIME CONVINCING AN OBVIOUSLY SKITTISH MELGAR THAT FAVORABLE PUBLICITY WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THEIR JOINT EFFORTS AT NORMALIZATION. THE IMPLICATION OF WHAT THE DATT SOURCE SAID

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 SAN SA 02689 081905Z

OF THIS "CONVINCING PROCESS" WAS THAT THE GOES PARTICIPANTS HAD TO TALK MELGAR INTO BELIEVING THAT FULL PUBLICITY WOULD ENHANCE HIS PERSONAL IMAGE IN HONDURAS, PRESUMABLY BY SHOWING HIM AS A STATESMAN AT AN IMPORTANT AND HISTORIC MEETING.

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